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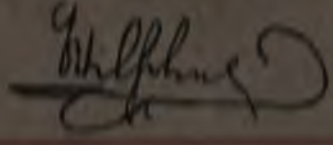
My
Ideas and Ideals



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My Ideas and Ideals

KAISER WILHELM II

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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

The case of the People of the United States *vs.* William II, King of Prussia, Emperor of Germany, is all over. The verdict is "guilty" without mitigating circumstances or any recommendation for mercy.

Following the usual course adopted in the determination of judicial questions of importance, the case has been tried in the newspapers. The prosecution was given the front pages, the presiding judge announced his impartiality in columns of invective on the editorial page, and such of the jury as thought the "law's delays" too long to tolerate, even one side of the case being stated, announced their verdict in the Letter Box. As a matter of course the defendant was not heard in his own behalf, and the volunteer pleaders for the defence broke down utterly under a leadership that ranted from a university chair, which for the past few years has served as the platform for a personal advertising campaign that would have put the Kickapoo Indian medicine men to the blush even in their palmiest days, when in full regalia of fringed buckskin, war paint and eagle feath-

ers, they sold to the gaping yokels of the countryside the cure-all nostrums of their tribe.

Let us waste no time in rehearsing the specifications of the indictment; very properly it embraced every crime known to the criminal law applicable to individuals or nations, and each count having been sustained, it was only reasonable to insist that the sentence be exemplary: France to extend her boundaries to the Rhine, Schleswig-Holstein together with the Kiel canal to be returned to Denmark, Russia to take all the Baltic Coast and East Prussia, German and Austrian Poland to be created into an autonomous State, England to take all German Colonies and Helgoland, Japan to get a war indemnity large enough to make up for what she did not get in the Russian War, Belgium to get Sherman law triple damages which will insure the industrial slavery of every German born for the next two hundred years, Servia and Montenegro to take such territory from Austria as they may fancy, and the balance of the Dual Empire to be divided up into as many countries as the map makers have colors for.

As for the Kaiser and his family, and the Grand Dukes of Austria and their families, in disgrace they are to make a final exit from Europe.

PUBLISHERS' NOTE

As the best informed leaders among the Allies report that in their judgment some considerable time will elapse before they find themselves in a position to carry this sentence into effect in all its details, perhaps the ladies and gentlemen of the jury may be willing to spare an hour to acquaint themselves with the man on whom they have passed judgment, and whose country's ruin they link with his own.

For more than twenty-five years Wilhelm II has been the Emperor of the German people. Problems of endless variety have presented themselves to his consideration, and in no case is he accused of hesitation in expressing his views freely and vigorously. No man in public life has provided an equally complete record of personal opinion covering so wide a range of subjects, educational, political, social, theological, historical, artistic, on which may be based an intelligent estimate of his character and tendencies. Let him speak to you as he does in these pages, in his own words, and from them evolve your own conclusions as to the personality and attainments of the central figure in the world's history of today.

I COME to the throne a man of thirty years of age. No one knows me. I must first of all gain the confidence of my colleagues.

Having succeeded to the throne of my ancestors, I have taken over the government, relying upon the King of Kings, and I have vowed to God that, acting in accordance with the example of my predecessors, I will endeavour to be a just and clement ruler, that I will encourage piety and the fear of God, that I will uphold peace and promote the welfare of the country, and further, that I will strive to be a helper to the poor and oppressed and a faithful guardian of the law.

I am firmly resolved to meet the heavy responsibility of the inheritance that has fallen to me, by devoting to it all my powers. This is best accomplished by fostering the Army. I trust that I shall succeed, by careful fostering, in maintaining it in the condition in which my grandfather handed it to me, as an instrument in his hands to preserve peace, to

gain the victory in war, and as an incomparable school for the education of our people.

With deep sorrow did I take up the crown; on all sides men doubted me; on all sides did I encounter misconceptions. One thing alone had confidence in me; one thing alone believed in me—it was the Army and supported by it and relying upon our God as of old, I undertook my heavy office, knowing well that the Army was the main support of my country, the main pillar of the Prussian throne to which God's decree had called me.

The great problems which confront me, and which concern the promotion of the general welfare of my subjects, I am not able to solve through the agency of the State officials alone. For the elevation and the strengthening and developing of the moral and religious life of my people I require the assistance of the noblest in the land—my nobility.

As I look upon myself as an instrument of the Lord, I am indifferent to the point of view of the present day. I pursue my own way, devoted to the prosperity and pacific development of the country. But in order that I

may carry out these aims I require the collaboration of all my subjects.

The king holds his power by the grace of God, to whom alone he is responsible. He chooses his own path, and only decides his actions from this point of view.

It is the Kingship by the grace of God, the Kingship with its heavy duties, its never-finished, unending toils and labours, with its dread responsibility to the Creator alone, from which no man, no minister, no House of Deputies, and no people can release the Prince.

The noble form of our great departed Emperor William is ever present to our eyes with its mighty triumphs. To what were they due? To the fact that my grandfather had the most firm belief in his divinely-appointed office, combined with the most unwearied devotion to duty.

I, too, like my imperial grandfather, represent the kingship by God's grace.

My grandfather believed that the functions of the king were a task given to him by God, a task to which it was his duty to devote his

strength up to the last moment of his life. What he thought I also think.

Here my grandfather placed, by his own right, the crown of the Kings of Prussia on his head, once again laying stress upon the fact that it was conferred upon him by the grace of God alone, not by Parliament, by meetings of the people, or by popular decisions; and that he considered himself the chosen instrument of Heaven and as such performed his duties as regent and as ruler.

There were two circumstances which made it possible for my ancestors and my House to accomplish their task in the manner they did. The first, the main circumstance, was the fact that, above all other princes, and in an age when such thoughts and feelings were perhaps as yet somewhat uncommon, they felt and asserted their belief that they were personally responsible to the Lord in Heaven. The second circumstance was that they had the people of Brandenburg at their back.

Each of the Hohenzollern Princes was from the outset of his career conscious that he was only God's vicegerent upon earth, that he would have to render an account of his work

to a higher King and Master, and that he must faithfully perform the work appointed him by the Almighty to do.

The reigning House of Hohenzollern is equipped with a high sense of duty derived from the consciousness that it is appointed by God to its position.

It is easy to understand that an older generation, when it is suddenly deprived of its revered head, must find it difficult to be led by a younger hand, for opinions change as completely as do the problems of the time.

Our first and foremost duty is to show ourselves worthy of our ancestors and their achievements. And that we can only do by an undeviating adherence to the paths which they traced out for our guidance.

The Great Elector is the one among my ancestors whom I have regarded with the most enthusiastic admiration, and from my youth up have set before my eyes as my model.

Every man has his task to perform and an aim to pursue, and if every man interprets his duty as strictly as did the Great Elector, and all the members of my House, in the

conviction that he is responsible, and that he will be called upon to render an account of what he has done, then I am firmly convinced that a great future awaits our German Fatherland.

Our predecessors have gone; we remain; and it is our duty to preserve what they bequeathed us.

Let us remember the example of my great ancestor, the Emperor William I, who said that he had learned more from his humiliations than from all his successes.

My life and my work belong to my people, the promotion of whose welfare is the noblest task of my kingly office.

I never fail to bear in mind the spirit of the saying of the great Frederick: "In Prussia the King is the first servant of the State."

My door always stands open to my subjects, and I will willingly listen to their complaints.

I consider it necessary for a Sovereign to investigate everything personally and to form his opinion at first-hand; to get to know his neighbours in order that he may enter

into good relations with them—such was the object of my travels to the East.

I am of opinion that in the position in which I am placed it is of far greater service to me to confer benefits on mankind than to inspire them with fear.

When I have to act or think I always ask myself the question: What does the Bible say in similar circumstances? The Bible is for me a spring whence I draw strength and light.

I am passionately fond of the sea, and delight in observing and watching natural signs, and, like a true German, like to draw conclusions from nature to meet my own case.

Catchwords alone are powerless to effect anything, and to the incessant, captious criticisms of the new course of our policy and those who are responsible for it, I quietly but firmly reply, "My course is the right one, and in it I shall continue to steer."

There is only one master in this country: I am he, and I will not tolerate another.

There is only one law—my law; the law which I myself lay down.

A ruler may be very disagreeable, and I will be disagreeable if I think it necessary.

As the ivy clings to the trunk of the oak, so does the Prussian nobility cling to my House; and let it and the whole German nobility serve as a glorious model for the hesitating groups among my people.

Any opposition on the part of Prussian noblemen to their king is a monstrosity; such opposition can be justified only when the king leads it.

Shame on the man who abandons his king!

The spirit of disobedience is spreading throughout the country: hidden under a deceptive garb it endeavours to lead astray the men who are devoted to me. It makes use of oceans of printers' ink and paper to cover up the paths which lie open to those who know me and my principles. But I take no notice of all this.

When anything is mentioned in the Press or in public life which is somewhat obscure, for unfortunately it not rarely happens that my words and utterances are given a meaning which they do not bear, remember the maxim

of an old Emperor, who said, "The Emperor's word must not be twisted or explained away."

We belong to one another, I and the Army.

The most important inheritance which my illustrious grandfather and father bequeathed to me, and which I entered upon with joy and pride, is the Army.

I solemnly vow always to be mindful of the fact that the eyes of my ancestors are looking down upon me from the other world, and that one day I shall have to render to them an account of both the glory and the honour of the Army.

May the main pillars of our Army ever be unassailed. These pillars are bravery, sense of honour, and absolute, iron, blind obedience.

The soldier must not have a will of his own—they must all have only one will, and that will mine.

In the Army a firm, inviolable attachment to the Sovereign is the inheritance which is handed down from father to son and from generation to generation.

The best word is a blow—the Army and Navy are the pillars of the State.

I hope that every one of you will agree with me in this, that it is our duty to hold our Army in respect, regard, and honour, and to keep it clear of all party strife and all meddling with political doctrines.

The Army and the Emperor at its head can alone secure the safety of the Empire and the peace of the world.

One of the main principles which, so long as I have had the honour to be at the head of my Army, I have in all places proclaimed and upheld, is tradition.

The foreigner has learned the consequences of offending the German Emperor and his soldiers; a severe lesson has been given to the enemy; and all nations have learned how German soldiers fight, conquer and die. All the world respects our system of training and our military science.

My eyes rest with gratitude and trust upon my Army, for I know that the Army, on which the anxious love of the great Emperor was lavished from the years of his youth to the last moments of his long life, on which God had showered so many blessings, and to which he bequeathed as a precious heritage

the spirit of discipline, obedience, and loyalty, by means of which alone great deeds are possible, will ever be mindful of its high mission, and that it will fulfil every task entrusted to it.

I look for soldiers. We want vigorous men who will also be intellectual leaders and servants of the Fatherland.

I want brave and pious soldiers in my Army—no triflers.

If you are good soldiers, you must also be good Christians and religious at heart.

He who is no good Christian is no good man and also no Prussian soldier, and can under no circumstances perform what is required of a soldier in the Prussian Army.

You wear the Emperor's uniform, you have thereby been given a preference over other men.

It is the soldier and the army, not Parliamentary majorities and votes, that have welded the German Empire together. My confidence rests upon the Army.

It lies with you to maintain, in the new century, as in the old, the qualities by which our forefathers made the Army great, and to put them into practice; simplicity and unassuming modesty in daily life, absolute surrender of self to the service of the King, and entire devotion of all the powers of mind and body with restless energy to the perfecting and development of our troops.

The Officers' Corps is the heart of the Army, and it must always be in good condition, since otherwise the whole Army suffers.

Officers must admit the injustice of attacking the honour of another; but if an officer has done this wrong by some hasty impulse or in a moment of excitement, he is acting in a chivalrous spirit if, instead of persisting in his wrong, he makes advances with a view to an amicable settlement. In like manner, whoever has suffered any insult or affront is bound to accept any advances made with a view to a reconciliation, so far as military honour and good morals allow.

Side by side with the scions of the noble families of the land, side by side with the sons of my brave officers and officials, who, by old tradition, form the backbone of our body of

officers, I look to find the future supporters of my army also among the sons of honourable families of the middle classes, in which love of King and Fatherland, warm sympathy with the military class, and Christian morality are fostered and cultivated.

In these days nobility of birth alone cannot, as formerly, claim the privilege of supplying the Army with its officers. But the nobility of sentiment which has at all times animated our officers shall and must be maintained unimpaired.

I must disapprove of entry into an army being made dependent upon the possession of a substantial private income, a state of things which can only keep out of the army the sons of families not endowed with much wealth, but in sentiment and conception of life closely akin to our officers.

In my Army every soldier is to receive lawful, just, and worthy treatment, because such treatment forms the essential foundation towards fostering the promoting in the men willingness and devotion to their calling, and love and confidence in their superiors.

It is against my wishes that in my Army the prestige of the officers should be in proportion

to the amount of private income required to join the regiments, and I have a specially high opinion of those regiments, the officers of which are able to make themselves comfortable with small means, and yet do their duty with that satisfaction and cheerfulness which have always distinguished Prussian officers.

At a time when the monarchy is attacked on every side, it is the duty of an officer to support it, not only in service but in every act of his life.

It is my will and pleasure that more vigorous steps than heretofore be taken to prevent duels between my officers. The occasions for duels are often of a trivial character, private quarrels and affronts, an amicable settlement of which could be effected without detriment to military honour.

I desire with all my heart that when his duty is done every officer may lead a happy life; but we must earnestly and vigorously resist the tendency of luxury to get the upper hand in the Army.

The object of the Army is to secure peace for us, or, if peace is broken, to be in a position

to fight for it with honour; and that, with God's help, the Army will be able to accomplish.

Proud of the incomparable discipline and loyalty of its Army, Germany is resolved, without in any way threatening the rights of others; to maintain its Army at the degree of perfection it thinks necessary for the defence of its interests.

Now that Russia has shown her weakness in face of the Yellow Peril, it becomes the duty of Germany to face this danger. The officers and soldiers of the German Army must see to it that their time is employed in such a way that they do not fall into habits of debauchery and drunkenness such as characterized the Russian Army in its Far Eastern campaign.

What is the secret of the fact that we have so often overcome the enemy with inferior numbers? It is discipline. What is discipline? It is united co-operation, united obedience.

Germany is in no need of fresh military glory, nor does she require any new conquests, for she has already obtained once for all, on the

field of battle, the right to exist as an united and independent nation.

The German Empire has the right to possess such an army and such a navy as may be necessary to defend its interests, and no one will prevent it from organizing those forces as it may think fit.

Come what may, we will hold high our colours and our traditions, bearing in mind the saying and the brave deeds of Albrecht Achilles, who said: "I do not know any more reputable place to die in, than in the midst of my enemies." That, too, is my own deepest conviction.

It is only by carrying out the well-tried principle of universal military service that we can expect that those qualities of our Army, on which its strength and its high reputation are based, can continue to retain for Germany in the future that position of authority amongst the Powers which she has hitherto enjoyed.

Hurrah for the dry powder and the sharp sword, for the end we have in sight and the forces we are bending towards it, for the German Army and the General Staff!

It is a wonderful structure that the Emperor Frederick, with his great father and their great paladins, helped to erect, and bequeathed to us as the German Empire. In all the glory of its magnificence it stands there, the Empire which our fathers yearned to see, and of which our poets have sung. Well, then, instead of quarrelling as hitherto in barren strife as to how separate chambers, halls, or sections of this building ought to be furnished, may our people, blazing up like the October bonfires in enthusiasm for ideals, strive to emulate their ideal second Emperor and, above all, take pleasure in the noble structure and help to protect it.

In the presence of the statue of the victorious and illustrious monarch the Emperor Frederick III we, of the younger generation, solemnly vow to preserve what he won for us on the battlefield, to guard the crown which he wrought, to defend the Imperial territories against all comers and to keep them German—so help us God and our German sword!

The tree which we see growing, and which we have to foster is the German Imperial oak. It is destined to healthy growth, for it stands under the care of the Brandenburgers, in

whose country it is rooted. It has weathered many a storm, and has frequently threatened to decay, but the trunk and its offshoots, rooted in the soil of Brandenburg, will, by God's grace, endure to all eternity.

Sealed on the battlefields of France with streams of the blood of heroes, the brotherhood in arms of the German armies became the corner-stone of the new Empire and the bond which everlastingly unites the Princes and peoples of Germany.

To maintain unimpaired the solid structure of the Empire and of public order, to augment the welfare of the people in all its sections and classes, to uphold and enhance the strength and prestige of the nation—that is my aim.

The principal duties of the German Emperor consist in upholding, by military and political measures, the interests of the Empire in relation to foreign countries, and in watching over the execution of the Imperial laws at home.

I have sworn to myself that I will neglect nothing to bring about the unity of our

people, and to crush everything that tends to divide the nation.

The princes and the people have this duty in common, that they must work together for the greatness and prosperity of the country.

We are the salt of the earth, we must show ourselves worthy of our great destiny. Our young men must learn to make sacrifices, to give up things which are not good for them, to reject the outside influences of other nations, and to cultivate good manners, discipline, order and respect for religion.

Everyone must work for the good of the country, no matter who he or she may be, and the example of our great ancestors will always show us which path we ought to follow.

Sustained by the confidence of the nobility, supported by the spontaneous collaboration of the people, a ruler may regard the future with tranquillity.

If only every citizen will do his duty, then the ruler will be in a position to look after their interests and to control the destinies of the Fatherland for the welfare of all.

WILHELM II

No one realizes the enormous work and crushing responsibility falling to the lot of one who is responsible for fifty-eight millions of Germans.

The further development of the Imperial institutions, the strengthening of the bond that unites the German peoples, the necessity of averting the many dangers to which we are exposed, as well as the claims of a rapidly progressing development of all branches of human activity, constantly demand our unwearying and devoted attention.

I look upon the people and nation handed on to me as a responsibility conferred upon me by God, and that it is, as is written in the Bible, my duty to increase this heritage, for which one day I shall be called upon to give an account; those who try to interfere with my task I shall crush.

The development of the defensive power of other European States renders it a serious and even imperative duty for us also to take into consideration the development of the powers of defence of the Empire by thoroughgoing measures.

The schools, taking their stand on the newly-won national basis, should have inspired the young people and made it clear to them that the new Imperial organization was formed to be preserved. There is, however, nothing of the kind to be seen, and consequently, even in the short time which has elapsed since the Empire was founded, centrifugal tendencies have developed.

If the people of Germany will only make their entrance into the world full of confidence in God, they will be enabled to accomplish the great work of civilization which Providence has reserved for them.

If we would do justice in all respects to the great tasks laid upon us, we must not forget that the main foundation upon which this Empire rests is based on simplicity, the fear of God, and the high sense of moral duty possessed by our ancestors.

If we glance at the situation of Germany in the world, we cannot but recognize that we have to contend with a continual misconception of the German character, and of prejudice against the progress of German activity.

The present age delights in casting many a glance backward at the past, and in compar-

ing it with the existing state of things, mostly to the disadvantage of the latter. He who can look back at such a glorious past as, thank God, we Germans can, does well to do so, in order to learn many a lesson therefrom. In a monarchical state this is called tradition.

We must refresh ourselves by drinking from the wells of our past history, and, thus refreshed, continue to devote ourselves to action and to creative work.

The Rhine: the river where grow our vines, the name of which is endeared to us by our legends, the river where every castle, every town, speaks to us of our past.

On our flag you see the eagle, the noblest of creatures. Exulting in his strength, he soars in the air in the rays of God's sun; he knows naught of fear or danger. Such should be our ambition and all our aims.

With great anxiety I have had to observe what slow progress the Germans have made in the understanding of, and interest in, questions of world-wide importance.

We live in a state of transition. Germany is gradually growing out of her childhood, and

will soon be entering upon her period of youth. It is, therefore, high time that we should throw off our childish ailments. We are passing through difficult and exciting times, in which, unfortunately, the judgment of the great majority of the people is wanting in objectivity.

What are the duties of youth? To work to avoid useless struggles, hatred, discord and envy, and rejoice in our German Fatherland, such as it is, and not in striving after the impossible.

Germany is a young and growing Empire. She has a world-wide commerce, which is rapidly expanding, and to which the legitimate ambition of patriotic Germans refuses to assign any bounds.

Germany looks ahead. Her horizons stretch far away. She must be prepared for any eventualities in the Far East. Who can foresee what may take place in the Pacific in the days to come — days not so distant as some believe, but days, at any rate, for which all European Powers with Far Eastern interests ought steadily to prepare?

We are now in a position to raise the visor of our helmet, and to look with the fearless eyes

of a courageous German at any one who may block the path we have mapped out for ourselves.

When the Germans have once learned to see far ahead and to direct their gaze on what is great, the little pettinesses of life will disappear from before them.

The essence of nationality is demarcation from the outside world by a definite boundary to correspond with the personal characteristics of a nation and its racial idiosyncracies.

Empires of world-wide power are not built up in a day.

The German Empire becomes a world-empire. Everywhere in the farthest parts of the earth live thousands of our fellow-countrymen. German subjects, German knowledge, German industry cross the ocean. The value of German goods on the seas amounts to thousands of millions of marks. On you, gentlemen, devolves the serious duty of helping me to knit firmly this greater German Empire to the Empire at home.

Wherever a German has fallen while faithfully fulfilling his duty to the Fatherland, and there lies buried, and wherever the German Eagle has thrust his talons into a country, that country is German, and will remain German.

I made up my mind after reading the lessons of history never to dream of a vast world-empire. For what has become of all those so-called world-empires? Alexander, Napoleon and all such great captains bathed themselves in blood, and yet left behind them subjugated peoples, who, after those great men had died, rose in revolt and ruined the Empires they had created.

If history should mention a German world-power, or a Hohenzollern omnipotency, we do not wish it to be said that it was obtained by the point of the sword, but by the mutual confidence of nations striving towards the same ideal.

I dream of an Empire and it is this: The newly-born German Empire must possess the confidence of everybody, must be considered everywhere as a quiet, honest and peaceful neighbour; and if some day in the future a German world-empire is spoken of, it must

not be based on the conquests of the sword, but on the reciprocal confidences of nations united for an identical end.

The sceptre of the Caesars slipped from the feeble grasp of their successors, the fabric of the Roman Empire tottered to its fall; and only the appearance on the scene of the Germans, flushed with victory and unspoiled in spirit, was able to divert the history of mankind into a new channel, which it has followed ever since.

With us Germans an ideal still counts for something, while other peoples have more or less given up their ideals. Only the German nation is left to defend, and above all to cultivate great conceptions.

Under the iron pressure of the insolent conqueror's heel, our people in bitter travail of spirit conceived the high thought that it is the greatest honour to devote life and property in military service to the Fatherland.

By God's grace our German stock has been able to produce mighty heroes of thought, from Boniface and Walter von der Vogelweide down to Goethe and Schiller, and they have become a light and a blessing to all pos-

terity. They worked for humanity at large, and yet they were strictly well-contained Germans, that is to say, personalities, men. We need such men to-day more than ever.

I do not want to see any pessimists in Germany. If there are any among us who will not work, let them seek another fatherland elsewhere.

I am thankful for and touched by the rejoicings of those of the young generation who have grown up under the banner of the Empire. Before all else, however, I would impress upon the reverend heads of the Church, who have so great an influence upon our people, that they should labour with all their might, and with all the power at their command, to the end that respect for the Crown and confidence in the Government may take ever deeper and deeper root.

Whatever dark hours may be in store for the Fatherland, we Germans will succeed in emerging from them, actuated here as elsewhere by the sound principle that " we Germans fear God and nothing else in the world."

In all epochs, and particularly in the present one, the degree of culture and education to

which a country has attained ought to be regarded as one of the principal factors of the moral and material development of the people.

Free scope for the development of the intellectual and material strength of the nation, the promotion of the public welfare thus obtained, the construction of a uniform code of law, the securing of an impartial administration of justice commanding respect, and the education of the young in the fear of the Lord and in loyalty to the Fatherland—these are the goal towards which the Empire has unceasingly striven.

Form the minds of the young, and then we shall have different men leaving school. Then, also, we must abandon the principle that knowledge, not life, is the most important point to be considered. Our young people ought to be trained to meet the practical needs of modern life.

I believe that I have rightly understood the aims of the new spirit and of the century which is now drawing to a close, and I am resolved, as I was in the case of Social Reform, to follow modern tendencies in the matter of the education of the rising genera-

tions, for if this is not done now we shall be compelled to do it in twenty years' time.

Our methods of education must be such that men need no longer look at the world through spectacles, but simply with their own eyes; and they should be able to find pleasure at the prospect before them—in the Fatherland and its institutions.

There is no work in the field of modern research which has not been published in our tongue, and no discovery in science which we are not the first to turn to account, to be subsequently adopted by other nations. Such is the World Power to which the German spirit aspires.

The feeling of sympathy for science which is innate in every Prussian king is also active in me.

In lessons in German, as well as in those in literature, in selecting passages for reading, lectures, and essays, side by side with classical antiquity, its myths and civilization, special attention should also be given to the Germanic legends and the national subjects and writings, and the pupil should also be made familiar with the intellectual life of other

important civilized nations of the present time, by introducing him to individual masterpieces of their respective literatures.

Modern-classical schools are only hybrid institutions; they only provide a hybrid education, and the net result is an incomplete preparation for future life.

The basis of instruction in the gymnasium must be German. We ought to educate young Germans, not young Greeks and Romans. We must break away from the basis which has existed for centuries, from the old monkish education of mediaeval times, when Latin, together with a smattering of Greek, was of most importance. That is no longer our standard. We must make the German language the basis of instruction. German composition must be the central point around which everything else revolves.

The schools have over-produced, and to my mind have turned out too many highly-educated men, more than the nation requires and more than the people can support. That saying of Prince Bismarck's is quite correct: the proletariat is made up of people who have passed higher examinations.

I wish to bring the technical high schools to the forefront, for they have important problems to solve, not only of a technical, but also of a social character.

Hitherto, if I may say so, our youths were led from Thermopylae *via* Cannae to Rossbach and Vionville; but I would lead them from Sedan and Gravelotte *via* Leuthen and Rossbach to Mantinea and Thermopylae. I think this is just the right way along which we ought to guide our youths.

He who would educate must himself be educated. It cannot be said that this is universally true of the great body of teachers.

Headmasters, bearing in mind the maxim *multum, non multa,* will to an increased extent have regard to the fact that an equally high level of performance is not to be exacted for all branches of study, but that the most important of them, having regard to the character of the different institutions, must be brought forward more prominently and studied more deeply.

In teaching Greek the utmost emphasis must be laid on the necessity of disregarding useless minutiae, and special care must be taken that

not merely the ethical conceptions of the Greeks, but also the intimate connection between the ancient world and modern civilization should receive due attention.

Homer, that glorious man, about whom I have always been enthusiastic, Horace, Demosthenes, whose speeches must have filled everyone with delight, how were they read at school? With enthusiasm for the battle or the arms, or the descriptions of nature? Not at all. Under the scalpel of the grammatical and fanatical philologist each clause was dissected and split up, till to his delight he had found the bare skeleton, and then exhibited it for the admiration of all. It was enough to make one weep.

Away with the Latin essay; it interferes with us, and it leads to a waste of time which might be devoted to German.

I should like to see the national spirit fostered still more by the teaching of history, geography, and legendary lore. Let us begin at home. When we know all the ins and outs of our different chambers and rooms, then we can go to the museum and look round there. But, above all, we must be well up in the history of the Fatherland.

I think that by the study of history people may be made to understand on what foundations their existence and their strength are based. The more we teach the nation history the better it understands its situation, and the more ready it will be to act and to think on a high plane, and with cohesion.

Instruction in history must aim more than hitherto at cultivating a proper comprehension of present-day affairs, and especially of the Fatherland's share in them. Accordingly, greater stress is to be laid on German history, particularly that of modern and most recent times. Ancient and mediaeval history should be so taught that, by means of examples drawn from these epochs, the scholars may be made more open to learn lessons of heroism and historical greatness, and also obtain a good perception of the origin and development of our civilization.

I do lay special stress, considering the great importance which is now attached to a knowledge of English, on the advisability of this language being taught in a more thoroughgoing fashion in our gymnasia. Therefore, side by side with Greek, English should everywhere be allowed as an alternative subject in all classes below the lower second form,

and besides this, in the three upper classes of the gymnasia, wherever local circumstances render it advisable, to make English a compulsory subject in the place of French, still retaining the latter, however, as an optional subject.

Even in England I have always met with the most genuine respect for German technical ability, and I have recently in that country had evidence of how much our technical education and achievements are appreciated.

As in the Middle Ages manly strength and courage were steeled by jousts or tournaments, so the spirit and habits which are acquired from membership of a Korps furnish us with that degree of fortitude which is necessary to us when we go out into the world, and which will last as long as there are German universities.

Panoramas have an educative value for the least cultured, and, above all, for young people. Every large town ought to have panorama exhibitions.

In teaching modern languages special emphasis should be laid upon skill in speaking and the power to understand current writers.

The aim and end of all education, especially military education, is formation of character, based on the due co-ordination of physical, intellectual, and religious training and discipline. No side of education should be favoured at the expense of another.

In giving instruction in modern languages, from the first stages upwards, the object to be kept in view is to stimulate and teach the cadets to make practical use of these languages.

It is my firm conviction that every young man who joins a students' "Korps" will receive the true direction of his life from the spirit which prevails in it. It is the best education which a young man can get for his future life. And he who scoffs at the German students' "Korps" does not understand their real meaning.

I hope that as long as there are German students' Korps, the spirit that is fostered in their Korps, and by which their strength and courage is steeled, will be preserved, and that you will always take delight in handling the duelling blade. The real meaning of our duels is often misunderstood by the general public. But that must not lead us astray. You and

I who have been Korps' students know better than that.

Our future lies upon the water.

To the sea our thoughts are turned—the sea, which is the symbol of eternity. Seas do not separate; they unite.

Imperial power means sea power, and sea power and imperial power are dependent on each other.

Perhaps I may be able to fulfil that part of the Great Elector's dream which, owing to the subsequent struggles that we encountered in the course of our development, has had to remain in abeyance. I mean the way over the sea.

I will never rest until I have raised my Navy to a position similar to that occupied by my Army.

Thank God, old and young, high and low, throughout the German Empire, now follow with affectionate interest the work of each of our few warships which has duties to perform in foreign waters.

Though the German Navy is specially intended for the safeguarding and preservation of peace, it will, I am confident, do its duty if called into action.

The ocean is indispensable to the greatness of Germany. The ocean also proves that on its waves and beyond them nothing of importance can be decided without Germany and the German Empire.

The German fleet is the youngest fleet in the world, and another proof of the growing importance of the new German Empire. It is destined to protect the commerce and territory of this Empire, and it will, like the German Army, serve to keep the peace of the world.

What my grandfather did for his land Army, that will I do for my Navy in the same manner, and I will, without faltering, continue and carry through the work of reorganization, so that it, too, may be able to stand with equal authority at the side of my combative forces on land, and that by its means the German Empire may be in a position to win abroad a place it has never yet attained.

If the strengthening of the Navy, in spite of constant entreaties and warnings during the

first eight years of my reign, had not been persistently refused, in the course of which time I was not even spared scorn and mockery, how differently would we then have been able to promote our thriving commerce and our interests over the sea.

I hope that, assisted by the German Navy League, we shall succeed in convincing the German nation more and more of the necessity of a powerful Navy, commensurate with our interests and able to protect them.

Should it ever happen that the British and German Navies have to fight side by side against a common foe, then the famous signal "England expects that every man will do his duty," which England's greatest naval hero gave out before the battle of Trafalgar, will find an echo in the patriotic heart of the German Navy.

The commander who, by God's will, loses his ship or goes down in her after gloriously contending with the elements, dies, in my opinion, quite as glorious a death as the leader who falls sword in hand at the head of his regiment whilst in the act of storming the enemy's position.

Look at the accomplished rise of Japan; think of the possible national awakening of China; and then judge of the vast problems of the Pacific. Only those Powers who have great navies will be listened to with respect when the future of the Pacific comes to be solved, and if for that reason alone Germany must have a powerful fleet.

It is understood that a defensive fleet does not merely serve to protect the interests of the traders of our great commercial cities, but that it is also needed, and bitterly needed, for the protection of the industry of our entire people and their success in the world.

Although we have not yet the fleet which we must have, we have nevertheless been able to acquire our place in the sun. It will be my duty to see that no one destroys this place.

The more Germans come out on to the water, whether to compete in sailing matches, or to voyage across the ocean, or in the service of our naval ensign, the better it is for the Fatherland.

You have, as seamen, sworn the oath on the black, white and red flag. Black is symbolical of work and mourning, white of pleasure and

recreation, and red of the blood which many of our ancestors shed for the Fatherland.

Our Navy is, of course, still small compared with that of our enemies abroad, but the secret of its strength lies in good discipline and in the obedience of the crews to their supreme commander and their superior officers.

I believe that as time goes on the conviction will ever more and more gain ground, that the development of our great water-ways is absolutely necessary, and will be fraught with blessings for both interests—industry and agriculture.

Each new vessel built by your company (The North German Lloyd), each new success which one of your vessels achieves, each new service established, fills me, and not me only, but also many other people of this country, like-minded with myself, with pride and satisfaction.

May the activity of the Navy League and its members contribute more and more to imbue the German people with the conviction that a powerful development of our naval forces is necessary, and that a great fleet is one of the

most essential conditions of the maintenance of the grandeur of the Empire and the consideration in which it is held, as well as the prosperous development of our economic interests.

It is one of the privileges of the Princes of the House of Hohenzollern that they can from their tenth year devote their energies to the service of the Fatherland by entering at that age the 1st Regiment of Guards, a regiment which has numbered many Hohenzollern Princes amongst its officers. I hope that the Hohenzollern Princes will devote their services to the Navy with the same zeal.

To protect Germany's sea trade and colonies, in the existing circumstances, there is only one means: Germany must have a battle fleet so strong that, even for the adversary with the greatest sea-power, a war against it would involve such dangers as to imperil its position in the world.

So far as I am concerned, there are only two parties—that which wishes to preserve the State, and that which wishes to destroy it.

It is one of the great merits of my ancestors that they never belonged to a political party,

that they were always above political parties, and that they succeeded in making political parties themselves work for the good of the whole.

The King of Prussia stands so high above all political parties and the wire-pulling and hatred of politicians, that he can contemplate his subjects without taking these things into account, and can thus work for the benefit of each one of his people and each separate province.

The problems which have to be faced by the German Empire and peoples have grown to a formidable extent, and thrown on me and my Government unusual and severe effort, which can only be crowned with success if the Germans stand at our back united and firm, and renouncing party discord.

Our people must resolve to make sacrifices; above all, they must divest themselves of their passion for seeking the highest good in ever more and more sharply accentuated party struggles. They must cease to place the party above the welfare of the whole.

If the whole body of the State is to prosper, particular interests must be sacrificed here

and there. Our present political parties are based on such interests, and too often defend them alone, each one struggling for himself.

My people must aid me in my duties, not by angry speeches or by the unreasonable opposition of political parties, but by explaining their difficulties to their Sovereign and showing confidence in him.

To me the word Social Democrat is synonymous with enemy of Empire and Fatherland.

I regard Social Democracy as a passing phase which will wear itself out.

If I ever observe that Social-Democratic opinions are concerned in the agitation among the work-people of the country, I will intervene with unrelenting vigour and bring to bear against such opinions the full power I possess.

That party which dares to attack the foundations of the State, which rebels against religion, and which does not even spare the person of the Sovereign, must be crushed. I shall rejoice to know that every man's hand is in mine, be he workman, landowner, or prince, if only I have his help in this conflict.

We have one task to accomplish whatever our different conditions in life may be—we must combat the revolutionary elements with all the means at our disposal.

God will help us to triumph over party hatred. The events that move the world must make us forget our internal dissensions.

Our wives can learn from Queen Louise that the principal task of a woman does not lie in the domain of political meetings and propaganda, but in the quiet duties of the hearth and of the family.

The more emphasis is laid on the formulae and interests of Party the more I rely firmly and surely on my Army, and the more I hope with confidence that my Army will always carry out my desires and my wishes, whether at home or abroad.

No morning or evening passes without my offering up a prayer for my people.

I like to read the Bible, and I read it every day. I always have it beside my bed, and I cannot understand how there can be so many people who take such little heed of the Word of God.

The King of Kings calleth for volunteers for the front. Who will pray for the Empire? Oh! would that it might be said here: the King called and they all came, all of them. Let not one of us be absent.

It is the sign that we Germans are Christians, that in every undertaking we engage in, especially the most important of all, namely, the training for the defence of the Fatherland, we always begin by giving honour to God.

In these revolutionary times, when the spirit of unbelief is abroad in all lands, the sole support and only protection of the Church are to be found in the Imperial hand and under the aegis of the German Empire.

Whether we are men with modern ideas, whatever the sphere of action in which our lot is cast, it is all one and the same thing. He who does not base his life on religion is lost.

I place my whole Empire, my whole people, my whole Army, myself and my family under the protection of Him who said: "Heaven and earth shall pass away; but My words shall not pass away."

WILHELM II

No words of man have ever been uttered worthy of comparison with the words of Christ.

Nothing but the lives which Christians lead can make any impression upon Mohammedans. No one can blame them if they have no respect for the name of Christian. For the Christians are split up into rival sects, and they have to be even restrained from flying at one another's throats by external force of arms.

An exemplary Christian life, charitable love of our neighbour, and our weak or suffering brethren, the fear of God, loyalty to king and love of country—these are virtues to be practised, and these are the arms to which God will give the victory.

Disregard what people say about the cult of Christianity being irreconcilable with the tasks of "modern" life. Do your best, whatever your occupation, to become a personality after Christ's example.

God has revealed himself differently to different peoples, taking into consideration their condition and the degree of their culture. It is still so in our own day.

I verily believe that everyone must feel a touch of inspiration when he stands before the altar and looks at the crucifix.

Let us recall the words of the Great Elector: "Lord, show me the way which I must go." His way led him over heights and through depths, through victories won and disappointments. But he never despaired. We, too, must walk in the same path.

Prayer is the golden key to the treasure-house of our God.

God liveth as of old. Our great Ally still reigneth, the Holy God who cannot suffer sin and iniquity to triumph.

The Lord God has hung in every human heart a bell of prayer; and in the sunshine and prosperity of life how often does it hang still and silent; but when the storm of distress rages, then it begins to ring.

Some day history will describe the struggles of these times. But man sees only what is before his eyes; he can only say what the wisdom of leaders, the courage of troops, the sharpness of weapons have accomplished. But some day eternity will reveal yet more.

It will show how the secret prayers of the faithful were a mighty power in these conflicts, how once again the old promise was fulfilled—"Call unto Me in the hour of need, and I will rescue thee."

Our German people will be the granite rock on which Almighty God will complete His building of the civilization of the world.

There is no doubt that the Old Testament includes a large number of chapters the nature of which is purely historical and human, and not a revelation from God. I believe, for example, that the proclamation of the Law on Mount Sinai must not be considered as having been inspired by God, except in a symbolic sense.

Religion has never risen from science: it is an overflowing of the heart of man in his relations with God.

The source from which my grandfather derived strength to accomplish his deeds and achievements, and my father to enable him to win his victories and bear his sufferings, is also the source of my strength. I am determined to proceed in the way and to adhere to the aim which I have set myself, in the firm

conviction which I should like to impress upon all of you, which for us and for every man should be the guiding principle of his life—"A sure stronghold our God is still"—*in hoc signo vinces.*

The works of great minds are gifts from God to man in order that men may perfect themselves and may feel that there is above the confusion of our present life a beyond which is still unknown to them.

It goes without saying that I will, as King of Prussia, as well as *summus episcopus* of my Church, make it my most sacred duty to take every care that the religious sentiments and the Christian spirit are fostered and increased in the schools. May the school respect and revere the Church, and may the Church, in its turn, assist the school and facilitate the further accomplishment of its tasks. Then we shall be able to educate our young people up to the requirements of our modern national life.

Every Catholic ought to know that I honour his religion, and that he will never be prevented in his exercise of it if he respects the beliefs of those who profess other faiths.

I hope that all of you, clergy and laity alike, will help me to preserve religion among the people. Together we must labour to preserve to the Germanic race its vigour and the moral basis of its strength. That, however, is only possible by preserving for it religion—Protestant and Catholic alike.

Christian men, in order that they may preserve cheerful hearts in the hour of pressing need, that they may remain true under the most exacting duty, need more than ammunition and sharp weapons, more than youthful courage and fiery enthusiasm: they need the blessing from above; they require that heavenly world which is open only to prayer.

If Russia was beaten in the war with Japan, her defeat was due to the fact that Christianity in Russia was at a sadly low level, while the Japanese possess more than one Christian virtue. A good Christian, a good soldier.

The Japanese were animated throughout the war with Russia by a two-fold love—love for their country and love for their Emperor; a love which showed itself in the magnificent discipline of their army. But we must not conclude from the victories of a Pagan people

over a Christian people that Buddha is superior to Christ.

My Catholic subjects can rely on my Imperial protection, wherever and whenever they may stand in need of it.

The main principle which enabled the Great Elector, despite all reverses and disappointments, never to lose courage and hope, was the thread running through his life, so well expressed in the motto: "*Domine, fac me scire viam, quam ambulem.*" So long as we, too, work on this principle, we shall overcome every difficult stage in the development of the Fatherland.

Marvellous have been the achievements of technical science in our day, but they were only possible because the Creator of heaven and earth has conferred on man the capacity and the desire to penetrate ever more deeply into the mysteries of His work, and to become better acquainted with the forces and the laws of nature in order to press them into the service of mankind.

As regards religious instruction, the ethical side of it should be given the greatest prominence, the chief stress being laid on the

pupils being educated in the fear of God and in the joyful acceptance of the Christian faith, to be exacting towards themselves, and tolerant towards others; and they should be strengthened in the conviction that loyalty and devotion to ruler and Fatherland, as well as the fulfilment of all duties, rests on God's commandments.

May we always be mindful that it is our duty to protect religion, which should be preserved for the nation, and to uphold morals and order.

God has not withdrawn a single word of His promises. True prayers have power even to-day to throw down the dragon banner into the dust, and to plant the banner of the Cross on the wall.

Jerusalem, that city built on a hill, which we see at our feet, vividly calls to our mind that stupendous work of redemption of our Lord and Saviour. It bears witness to us of that common work which, independently of creeds and nationality, unites all Christians in Apostolic Faith.

The very example given us by Jerusalem is an urgent warning to us to keep in the back-

ground as far as possible the minor differences of our creeds, so that, firmly united here in the East, the Evangelical Church and the Evangelical Faith may carry on their work. Otherwise we can do nothing.

Let every man, whatever his position in life, whatever his calling, take care that all who bear the name of the crucified Lord may so walk under the banner of His glorious name, that they may triumph over all the powers of darkness that spring from sin and selfishness.

The German Empire and the German name have acquired a prestige throughout the Ottoman Empire greater than they have ever enjoyed before. It is incumbent upon us to show what the Christian religion really is, and that it is our simple duty to exercise Christian charity even towards Mohammedans, not by means of dogma or attempts at proselytizing, but merely by example.

Unbelief and discontent are becoming more prominent than ever, and the day may come, my soldiers—though God preserve us from it!—when it may be necessary for you to fire upon your own parents, on your own brethren. On that day test your fidelity by sacrificing your blood.

Clergymen who occupy themselves with politics are monsters. Whoever is a Christian is "social." Christian Socialism is a piece of stupidity that leads to vanity and intolerance—two things which are contrary to the spirit of Christianity.

Yes, the Lord liveth! Our great Ally still reigneth. Our God liveth, the God who will not allow sin and crime to triumph, but who will conduct His holy cause against a wicked people. God Almighty, who can seize upon the strongest walls as if they were cobwebs, and who can scatter the mightiest armies like heaps of sand; the compassionate, the faithful God, who bears upon His heart the weal or woe of every one of His children, and who hears every sigh and feels with us every sorrow.

I am opposed to war; but war can only be avoided by exerting to the utmost the defensive forces of the State.

I am well aware of the fact that by the public at large, and particularly in foreign countries, I am represented as entertaining a wanton and ambitious craving for war. May God keep me from such criminal folly.

IDEAS AND IDEALS

It is the power of tradition which on the field of battle as well as in peace makes men's hearts beat higher for king and country, and inspires them to brave deeds.

Some old principles of wide application are often neglected. The Commander-in-Chief of the army, having decided upon his line of operations, should not take up a position in front of his men, for by so doing he can command only a view of his immediate surroundings and lose sight of the whole. This was Kuropatkin's fault at the battle of Mukden.

The Teuton never fights better than when he is called upon to defend himself on all sides. So let our enemies begin. We are ready for them all!

The dry powder and the sharp sword: Do not let us lose sight of our object, but let us bend our strength towards it and banish the pessimists from among us.

The same blood runs in English and German veins.

I am a friend of England. The prevailing sentiment among large sections of the middle and lower classes of my own people is not

friendly to England. I am, therefore, so to speak, in a minority in my own land; but it is a minority of the best elements.

The British troops have filled me with the greatest admiration. If the possibility of a volunteer army is ever doubted, I shall be able to give such an army a testimony of efficiency.

It may even be that England herself will be glad that Germany has a fleet when they speak together on the same side in the great debates of the future.

Nelson's famous signal is now no longer necessary. You all do your duty, and we, as a young naval nation, go to England to learn something from the British Navy.

The British Navy is for the German Navy not only a model of technical and scientific perfection, but its heroes also, Nelson, for instance, and others, have ever been, and ever will be, the guiding stars of German naval officers and crews.

Germany possesses an army commensurate with her needs, and if Great Britain has a navy corresponding to her requirements,

Europe in general cannot fail to regard it as a most important factor for the maintenance of peace.

You English are mad—mad as March hares. What has come over you that you are so completely given over to suspicions quite unworthy of a great nation? Falsehood and prevarication are alien to my nature. My actions ought to speak for themselves; but you listen, not to them, but to those who misinterpret and distort them.

Posterity will one day read the exact terms of the telegram — now in the archives of Windsor Castle — in which I informed the Sovereign of England of the answer I had returned to the Powers which then sought to compass her fall. Englishmen who now insult me by doubting my word should know what were my actions in the hour of their adversity.

Let my critics ask themselves what brought to a sudden stop, and, indeed, to absolute collapse, the European tour of the Boer delegates who were striving to obtain European intervention. They were feted in Holland; France gave them a rapturous welcome. They wished to come to Berlin,

where the German people would have crowned them with flowers. But when they asked me to receive them — I refused. The agitation immediately died away, and the delegation returned empty-handed.

I have been hurt by the truth many a time; but not so much as by its contemptible contrary.

A splendid reception accorded to a ruler by his faithful subjects always touches his heart.

To be cured of presumption is a lesson of which we all stand in need.

What we have lived to see, what has been accomplished, we owe to the great Emperor William and to his confidence in God.

Among the many eminent qualities which the Americans possess, it is, above all, their spirit of enterprise, their sense of order, and their inventive capacity, which attract the attention of the whole world.

Just as the aloe, when it puts forth its blossoms, devotes its whole strength to this one task, unfolds from its ascending crest bloom

after bloom—to the astonishment of the beholder—and then breaks and dries up at the root, so also fared the Holy Roman Empire.

The cultivation of ideals is the greatest work of civilization.

All the works of man perish and decay.

Why did the German Empire sink into decay? Because the old Empire was not founded on a strictly national basis. The idea of universal rule that underlay the Holy Roman Empire precluded a development on national German lines.

The foundation stone of friendship between Germany and the United States was laid by Frederick the Great, and that friendship is now as strong and unshakable as a granite rock.

Germans feel themselves all the more drawn towards the people of the United States because they are connected with the North Americans by the many close ties which community of origin involves. The prevailing sentiment of the two nations is that of close relationship and tried friendship, and the future can only strengthen the heartiness of our relations.

Sorrow shared is half sorrow.

Every impartial observer of events throughout the globe must realize that solidarity between civilized nations is greatly increasing in many different spheres. This solidarity is forcing its way into the programmes of rulers and into the midst of self-governing communities; it is being fostered in various ways —by political deliberation, by congresses, by sport.

We must constantly forge ahead; we must work and fight against ourselves.

Why are so many of our young men led astray? Why do so many reformers of the world make their appearance with their incoherent, confused theories? Why is it that there is always so much grumbling at our Government, and why are we so often referred to foreign countries for an example? Because young men do not know how our conditions have developed, and further, that they are but the outcome of the era of the French Revolution.

Our young people ought to be more vigorously handled. I should like to see them working so hard during the day that the

evening finds them tired out, and more ready to seek sleep than to indulge in enervating pleasures.

If civilization is to fully perform its task, it must permeate to the lowest ranks of the people.

Our alliance with Austria-Hungary is a matter of public knowledge. I adhere to it with German sincerity, not merely because it happens to be concluded, but because I see in this defensive association the foundation of the balance of power in Europe as well as a legacy derived from German history.

I feel myself both refreshed and reinvigorated as often as I feel the waves of the fresh sparkling life of a Hansa city washing round me.

It is my intention to present to the city of Bielefeld a reproduction in bronze of the exceedingly successful statue of the Great Elector which is intended for the "Siegesallee." This will be a token of my grateful recollection of the reception given to me by the city, and will serve as an indication that, like this ancestor of mine, I am the possessor of an inflexible determination to proceed

fearlessly in the path that has once been recognized as the right one, and this in spite of all opposition.

Brandenburgers, a great future is still reserved for us, and I am still leading you on to a glorious destiny. Only do not let a gloom be cast on your outlook into the future, or the pleasure you take in united effort be lessened by mere carping criticism and discontented partisan talk.

Our great struggles with foreign foes without and our domestic legislation at home were always guided by the thought of their responsibility for the people placed under their rule, and for the country entrusted to their care.

There may be moments when misgivings arise in the world of commerce, when it seems to the uninitiated outsider that critical times are approaching. You may, however, rest assured that there are many things which are not so bad as they appear.

We will work according to the right, and will not desist in the struggle, so that we may free our country of this malady which is invading not our people, but also our family life, and,

above all, is striving to shake the position of woman—the most sacred thing we Germans know.

It is with joy that, on behalf of the Imperial Yacht Club, of which I am Commodore, and also on behalf of all fellow-yachtsmen, I greet the newly-established Lubeck Yacht Club. I hope that the founding of this club may be taken as a sign of the tendency of the nation to seek its future more and more upon the water.

The German Empire, from its very nature, is bound to come to the assistance of its citizens whenever they are oppressed in a foreign land. The problems which proved insoluble to the Holy Roman Empire, the modern German Empire is in a position to solve. The means that enables it to do this is our Army.

The legal condition of my present rights, so long as it is not called in question, is sufficient to assure to the State the amount of monarchical influence necessary for Prussia in accordance with her historical development, her present position, her situation in the Empire, and the feelings and customs of her people.

The fraternity of the arms of the German Army, sealed on the fields of battle in France by the blood of heroes, was the corner-stone of our new Empire, the bond that unites for ever the princes and the people of Germany.

The province of Eastern Prussia is the corner-stone of the Fatherland, the source from which the Kingdom of Prussia developed.

Gentlemen, you are on the threshold of the entrance to public life. Make a point of preserving your ideals; for there are strong forces at work among the people to-day which tend to take their ideals from them.

There will come a day when Berlin will be the most beautiful city in the world.

There is an ancient motto of Lubeck, "It is easy to nail the pennon to the mast, but it costs much to take it down with honour." That is a saying which every yachtsman would do well to remember as he sets out on his trip.

Aix is the cradle of the German Imperial power, for here the great Charles set up his

throne, and the town of Aix has since retained some reflex of his glory.

I am resolved to offer a helping hand for the amelioration of the condition of the labouring classes of Germany, as far as the circumstances, which necessarily limit the extent of my care, will permit. These limitations arise out of the necessity of preserving the capacity of German industry to compete in the markets of the world, and thereby to render secure its own existence and that of the employed; for a decline of home production, brought about by the reduction in sales abroad, would deprive not only the employers, but also the workmen, of their bread.

I would like to see the State mines develop into model institutions in respect of care for the workers, and as for private mines I am endeavouring to bring about the establishment of an organic connection between my mining officials and the working of such mines, with a view to placing them under a system of inspection corresponding to the inspection to which factories are submitted, as it existed down to the year 1869.

Geography, political as well as physical, should begin in the lowest class with one's

native country and should, above all, supplement and support the instruction in history given in the different stages. Another aim of geographical instruction is to make the pupil more intimately familiar with the Fatherland and its characteristic features, and further, to give him some understanding and correct idea of foreign countries.

The present curriculum for cadets makes, according to my observations, too exacting demands on a large number of pupils. Teaching must be simplified by the elimination of all unnecessary details, and particularly by a better choice of matter to be committed to memory, so that the less talented pupils may, with ordinary industry, follow the instruction given without over-pressure, and may cover the full course of work in the prescribed time. What the instruction loses in this way in extent it will gain in thoroughness.

I express to you my sincerest congratulations that you and your people have succeeded by your own energy, without appealing to the aid of friendly Powers, in defeating the armed forces which, as disturbers of the peace, invaded your country, in re-establishing order, and in protecting the independence of the

country against attacks from without.
(*The Kruger telegram, January 3rd, 1896.*)

In the century to come, in spite of all new spirits and ideas, may the old loyalty to the monarchy show itself firm as a rock and as an example for other countries.

A consideration of the hours during which our young people work shows that it is absolutely necessary that the number of hours of study should be reduced.

People ought not to look at the world through spectacles, but with their own eyes, and should find pleasure in everything around them—their Fatherland and its institutions.

The present century is passing away, and we shall soon enter into a new one. My ancestors have always shown that by constantly feeling the pulse of the time they were able to anticipate the future course of events. Consequently, they remained at the head of the movements which they had resolved to guide and lead on to new aims.

I have conferred my high Order of the Black Eagle on His Excellency Professor Dr. von Menzel. This, the highest mark of honour ever paid to an artist, is intended to be a

token of my gratitude for the service which he has rendered to my House by his art and at the same time an incentive to the disciples of art and painting to strive to walk in the path so successfully pursued by Menzel and to do likewise.

My people and my Army keep steadfast and true to the federated compact concluded between us, and the Army is fully conscious of the fact that to preserve the peace and its blessings for our countries it must maintain it and would fight, shoulder to shoulder, with the brave Austro-Hungarian army, if that should be the will of Providence.

I remind you of these facts in order to drink to the glorious and joint reminiscences and traditions of the Russian and the Prussian armies. I drink to those who, in patriotic and heroic defence of their country, fought at Borodino, who with us bled at the victorious battles of Areis-sur-Aube and Brienne. I drink to the brave defenders of Sebastopol and the dauntless fighters of Plevna.

May the Sultan, and the three hundred million Mohammedans throughout the world who acknowledge him as their spiritual head, rest assured that at all times the German Emperor will be their friend.

A glance at the history of our lands of Brandenburg suffices to show how the Hohenzollerns and Brandenburgers have ever belonged to one another, and how by the force of events and the historical development of our land they now form but a single conception.

So long as the peasant of Brandenburg stands by us, and we can be certain that Brandenburg will respond to our work and help us, no Hohenzollern will despair of his task.

The link which unites me to this province (Schleswig-Holstein), and which makes this province dearer to me than any other, is the gem which sparkles by my side, her Majesty the Empress, a daughter of this province, a model of all the virtues that adorn a German Princess.

On these banks of the Rhine, that river of romance so familiar in our history, where every mountain has its story and every House of God speaks it sublime message, every note of welcome and every cordial word must exercise a magic spell on the human heart.

Let us cultivate the virtues of the province of Hanover—unshaken fidelity to the king, no-

bility of sentiment, elevation of thought, sacrifice to patriotism.

It was here at Erfurt that Napoleon, the Corsican parvenu, humiliated us most deeply; but it was here also, in 1813, that the thunderstorm rose which finally shattered his career.

I am thinking now of German women and maids. When I was on the battlefield of Vionville I thought of how nobly they gave their sons, their husbands, and their lovers to assist in the work of regaining for us the Empire. It is incumbent upon them to bring up a new generation of vigorous men. In our mother, our good German woman, lies a vast reserve of power that none can overcome.

You can go your ways undisturbed in Lorraine and peacefully follow your several trades and professions. The united German Empire gives you the assurance of peace. German you are, and German you will remain. So help us God, and our German sword.

Every man, however simple-minded he may be, has a feeling for what is beautiful or ugly.

IDEAS AND IDEALS

Every true work of art should contain in itself a grain of the artist's individual character.

The fullest measure of freedom and leisure I consider necessary for the artist.

Under the much-used word freedom, and under its banner, artists often degenerate into monstrosity and exaggeration and conceit.

The true artist needs no mountebank tricks, no puffs in the Press, no connection. I do not believe that the great masters of art whom you regard as your models, either in ancient Greece or in Italy, or in the time of the Renaissance, ever resorted to advertising.

Art must be helpful, must influence our people in an educative way; it must also make it possible for the lower classes of society, when hard toil and labour are over, to rise again to ideals.

It is the duty of a monarch to interest himself in the theatre, as I have seen from the example of my late father and grandfather, just because it may be a vast power in his hand.

The stage must contribute to the formation of the mind and character, and to the ennobling of the moral conceptions of the people. The theatre is one of the tools with which I work.

The theatre should not be merely an important factor in education, the propagation of morality, but should also be the embodiment of grace, beauty, and artistic imagination. We should leave the theatre not discouraged at the recollection of mournful scenes, of bitter disappointments, but purified, elevated, and with renewed strength to fight for the ideals which every man strives to realize.

Actual life makes it its duty to bring before our eyes day by day the most miserable realities. Our modern authors, who have ever more and more inclined to set this before our eyes on the stage, are setting themselves an unwholesome task, and producing work which cannot but have a depressing influence upon us.

I trust that the artists who are at present gathered in the Academy will throw their whole strength into the effort to cultivate

high art in a truly artistic spirit, and to prepare a worthy home for the Academy pupils entrusted to their guidance. In their hands lies the responsibility of fostering the sacred flame, and nourishing the fire of genuine artistic inspiration, without which all work in the domain of art becomes stunted and valueless.

I look upon art as the most effective means of educating the people.

Art which descends to advertising is no longer art, even if it be lauded a hundred or a thousand times over.

I regard it as my duty, in the spirit of my parents, to hold my hand over my German people, its rising generation, to cultivate in them the sense of the beautiful, to develop in them a taste for art, but only on a definite path, only within definite limits, which lie in the feeling for beauty and harmony, that exists in the hearts of men.

Throughout the centuries a certain spirit has pervaded the Teutonic character — the love of nature, which the Creator implanted in our hearts to be a true birthright of us Germans. They have exhibited the same

spirit in their art as applied to the ornamentation of their churches, and no German can free himself from the influence of the models which were thus originated, the protection of which becomes the duty of the Sovereign.

Great ideals have become for us Germans a permanent possession, while other nations have more or less lost them. The German nation is now the only people left which is called upon in the first place to protect and cultivate and promote great ideals, and one of these great ideals is that we should render it possible for our working and toiling classes to take pleasure in the beautiful.

All over the world an extreme respect for German art is observable. May it ever remain at this high level.

How is it with art in general throughout the world? It takes its models and draws from the springs of great Mother Nature, and she, Nature, in spite of her great apparently unrestricted boundless freedom, yet moves according to everlasting laws which the Creator has set for Himself and which can never be transgressed or broken without endangering the development of the world.

The most favourable condition for the solution of an artistic problem is not to be found in the calling of committees or in the appointment of all kinds of prize courts and competitions, but the old way practised in ancient classical times, and also subsequently in the Middle Ages. That is to say, the direct intercourse of the person who gives the commission with the artist affords the best guarantee for an artistic result and the successful performance of the task.

Sculpture has still for the most part remained untouched by the so-called modern tendencies and movements. It still stands there, noble and sublime.

The man who breaks away from the law of beauty, the feeling for aesthetics and harmony, of which every human heart is sensible, even when it is unable to give it expression, and finds his main principle in the thought of some special tendency, some definite solution of what are rather technical problems, sins against the primary source and origin of art.

When we look at the splendid remains of classical antiquity there comes across us again the self-same feeling: Here, too, prevails an eternal, permanent law—the law of

beauty, the law of harmony, the law of aesthetics. This law is expressed by the ancients in such a marvellous, overpowering way and such perfect form, that we, with all our modern delicacy of feeling and all our practical skill, are proud if we are told, with regard to some specially excellent performance, this is almost as good as was done nineteen hundred years ago—almost.

My House has always cared for the working classes.

The welfare of the working men lies near to my heart.

Every subject who prefers a wish or petition has, as a matter of course, the ear of his Emperor.

I regard it as one of my highest duties to promote the further development of our economic activity.

The most solid cement that binds our country together is the ordinary work of the day carried out harmoniously and in co-operation; and the blood which has been shed by all classes on the field of battle.

Let clergy and laity act together to improve the condition of the lower orders, and to maintain authority in the life of the country.

It is a monarch's business to hear both parties when his subjects require adjustment of differences that have arisen among them and loyally seek the aid of the Chief of State.

In the due care of the working men lies the most effective means of strengthening those forces which are called upon to resist with uncompromising severity every attempt to subvert by force the reign of law and order.

I will continue my endeavours to make Imperial legislation render in the future to the working population that protection which, in accordance with the principles of Christian morality, it is able to extend to the weak and oppressed in their struggle for existence. I hope that in this way it will be possible to effect an adjustment of unhealthy social contrasts.

It is but human nature that every man should seek to earn for himself the best livelihood possible. The men read newspapers, and know in what ratio their wages stand towards the profits of the companies. That they

should wish to have some share in such profits is intelligible enough.

Expert knowledge must be brought to bear on the consideration of the extent to which our industries are capable of bearing a greater burden of the cost of production resulting from stricter laws in favour of working men, without diminishing the field of remunerative employment open to our workers owing to the keen competition in the markets of the world. That would only result in injury to the economic position of the workers instead of the improvement which I am endeavouring to bring about.

In order to foster peaceful relations between the workers and their masters, we must consider the drawing up of legal regulations relating to various methods in which, by means of representatives possessing their confidence, the workers may have some share in the regulation of common affairs, and be able to protect their interests in negotiating with the masters and with the officials of my Government.

Not less important, for the securing of amicable relations between employers and employed, are the means by which a guaran-

tee may be given to working men that, through representatives who enjoy their confidence, they shall have a voice in the regulation of their common employment, and be enabled to uphold their interests in dealing with their employers.

The protection to be given to the working classes against the arbitrary and almost unchecked exploitation of their labour; the restriction which the dictates of humanity and the laws of natural development demand should be placed on child labour; the consideration of the position of women in the households of working men, morally and economically important as that is for family life, and other matters closely concerning the working classes, are susceptible of much better regulation.

Our proposal aims at the better regulation and organization of the industrial Courts of Arbitration, so that in the event of disputes arising between employers and employed these courts may act as conciliation boards to arrange the terms under which work shall be continued or resumed.

Those companies which employ a great number of my subjects to labour for them have

also a duty to perform to the State and the communes concerned, that is, to care for the welfare of the workmen to the best of their ability.

The noblest duty of a Government is to protect the weaker classes of society and to assist them to attain to a higher economic and moral condition. The duty of striving with all one's energy to this end is the more imperative, the more strenuous and severe the struggle for existence becomes for the different classes of the people.

It is one of the functions of the State so to regulate the time, the number of hours, and the conditions of the work, that the health of the workers may be maintained; and further, the dictates of morality, the economic needs of the workers, and their claim to a position of equality in the eyes of the law, must not be lost sight of.

I regard it as my royal duty to give my support to all concerned, masters and men alike, when differences of opinion arise.

We must enable the workers to give free and peaceful expression to their wishes and grievances, and give the authorities of the State

opportunity constantly to acquire information concerning the circumstances of the workers, and to keep in contact with them.

I consider it the duty of the State to work, as far as it is possible, for the alleviation of present economic distress, and, by organized effort, to bring about the practical recognition of that love for one's neighbour which grows in the soil of Christianity, as a duty to be undertaken by the collective power of the State.

The more the working classes recognize the conscientious earnestness with which the Empire strives satisfactorily to better their condition, the sooner will they realize the dangers that will fall to their lot if they make extravagant and impracticable demands.

We only wish to solve problems dividing the civilized world, to render it more easy for nations to live in harmony, to group together the forces of Europe; for it may be necessary later on to use these united forces in the interests of a common economic policy.

Whether we receive thanks or ingratitude for our endeavours on behalf of the amelioration

of the condition of the working classes, I shall never allow these efforts to flag. I have the conviction that the introduction of the proposed State protection will lead us to the end in view, namely, the reconciliation of the working classes to their position in the social fabric.

I do not disguise from myself the fact that I can never make all the members of our nation equally happy and contented. But I have good hope that I shall succeed in bringing about a state of things with which all can be content who have the will to be so.

I am convinced that the working classes will display their fidelity to me whenever occasion demands.

I hope our peace will not be disturbed and that the events that are now happening will open our eyes, steel our courage, and find us united, if it should be necessary for us to intervene in world-policy.

The world has been a witness of the indefatigable manner in which we stood in the front rank during the worries and troubles of recent years in the endeavour to spare the nations of Europe from a war between the great Powers.

I lend my hand to any plan that can help to further the great cause of peace.

The powerful German Army guarantees the peace of Europe. As is characteristic of the Teutons, we limit our external designs in order to develop ourselves internally.

I believe that with the help of God I have succeeded in ensuring the preservation of the peace of the world for many years to come. (1889.)

I only wish that European peace lay in my hands. I should certainly take care it should never be disturbed.

Let it be the duty of my House to foster and protect trade and commerce in profound peace for many a long year to come.

The peace of the world depends upon the maintenance of good relations between Germany and England.

The peace of Europe is not in danger: it rests on foundations which are too solid and firm to be easily shaken by the lies and calumnies of mischief-makers.

I am determined to keep peace with everyone, so far as it lies in my power. My love for the German Army, and the position I occupy in regard to it, will never lead me into the temptation to endanger the benefits which the country derives from peace, provided, of course, that war does not become a necessity forced upon us by an attack upon the Empire, or its allies.

My whole task for the future will be to enable the seeds of prosperity that have been sown throughout the Empire to germinate in peace and security.

I have the firm and unshaken conviction that we have a good conscience, that we seek no quarrels anywhere, and that God will be on our side if ever our peaceful work is interrupted.

As Christians it is our duty to accept what Heaven sends us. We hope that peace may be preserved, but if it is not, the fault will not be ours.

Secure is that peace which stands behind the shield and under the sword of the German Michael.

It is a glorious undertaking for all nations to aim at the establishment of peace, but there is a flaw in all these calculations. So long as mankind is possessed by original sin, so long will war and hatred, envy and discord, prevail, and so long will man attempt to overreach his neighbour. The standard of right and wrong applying among men applies also amongst nations. Let it, therefore, be the aim of us Germans at least to stand together, firm as a solid rock.

If we have been at peace for a long time, we owe our good fortune to our well-tried Army as well as to the favour of the Almighty.

When I came to the throne I swore that after the heroic times of my grandfather, bayonets and cannon would, so far as lay in my power, be put aside, but that these bayonets would be held sharp and these cannons ready, so that when cultivating our gardens and extending our beautiful houses, we should not be disturbed by envy and jealousy from outside.

The mighty German Army is the mainstay of the peace of Europe. True to the Teutonic character, we confine our empire within definite limits, that we may have unlimited

scope for the development of our resources within. In ever-widening circles does our speech extend its influence even across the sea.

The German Empire, far from being a danger to other States, will be respected and trusted by the nations, and will remain as heretofore a mainstay of peace.

Only so long as peace reigns are we at liberty to bestow our earnest thoughts upon the great problems, the solution of which, in fairness and equity, I consider the most prominent duty of our time.

May the commerce of the city of Bremen develop under the shadow of peace, may it flourish and prosper, mindful of the great days of the old Hanseatic League, whose motto not only you but all of us must constantly bear in mind if we desire to make progress in the markets of the world: "*Navigare necesse est, vivere non est necesse.*"

It is, of course, my first duty to do everything that is possible to preserve peace, and this is only natural, considering what work The North German Lloyd is called upon to perform; for trade and commerce can only thrive

and flourish when business can be conducted under sure care and protection.

The progress of our work of peace at home and across the sea depends upon the Empire being powerful enough at all times to defend and stand up for its national honour, its possessions and its justified interest in the world. Therefore, it is my constant duty and care to maintain and strengthen by land and sea the defences of the German people.

A fateful hour has fallen for Germany. Envious peoples everywhere are compelling us to our just defence. The sword has been forced into our hands. I hope that if my efforts at the last hour do not succeed in bringing our opponents to see eye to eye with us and in maintaining the peace, we shall, with God's help, so wield the sword that we shall restore it to its sheath again with honour.

Not only our duty as an ally called us to the side of Austria-Hungary, but the great task was cast upon us at the same time, with the ancient community of culture of the two empires, to protect our own position against the attack of unfriendly forces.

It was with a heavy heart that I was compelled to mobilize my army against a neighbour with whose troops mine had fought side by side on so many fields of battle, and with sincere regret I saw the breaking of a friendship to which Germany had been so faithful.

The Imperial Russian Government, giving way to an insatiable nationalism, has stepped to the side of a state which, through a criminal act, had brought about the calamity of this war.

That France also placed herself on the side of our opponent was not surprising to us. Only too often had our efforts to bring about more friendly relations with the French Republic come into contact with the expression of old hopes and with long-standing malice.

The present situation arose not from temporary conflicts of interest or diplomatic combinations, but is the result of ill-will existing for years against the strength and prosperity of the German Empire. We are not pushed on by the desire of conquest; we are moved by the unbending desire to secure for ourselves and those coming after us the place on which God has put us.

My Government and, above all, my Chancellor, tried until the last moment to prevent the worst happening. In enforced self-defence, with clear conscience and clean hands we grasp the sword.

To the peoples and races of the German Empire my appeal goes forth to stand together fraternally with our allies in defence of that which we have created in peaceful work.

Following the example of our forefathers, firm and faithful, earnest and chivalrous, humble before our God and ready to fight when in face of the enemy, let us confide ourselves to the everlasting Almighty, who will strengthen our defence and conduct it to a good end.

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